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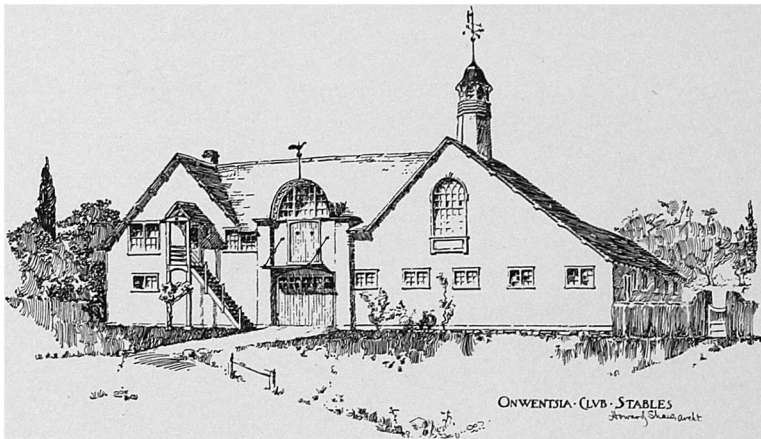
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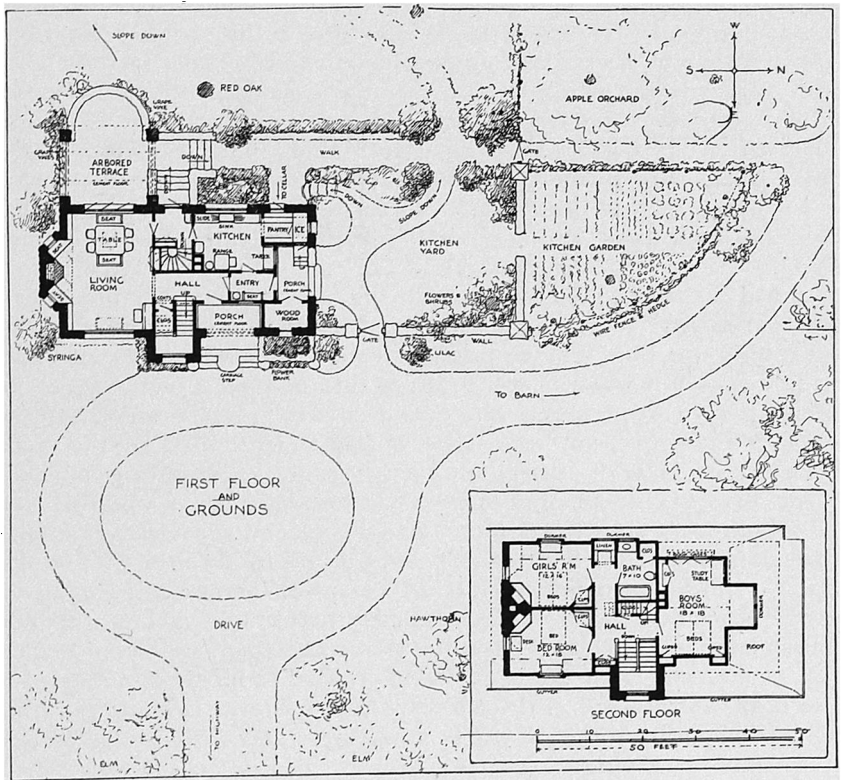
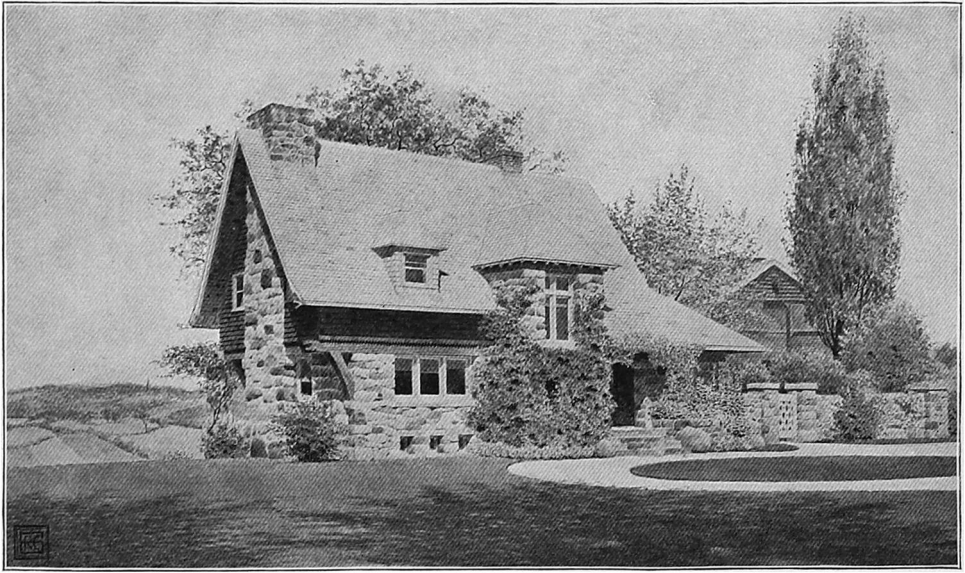


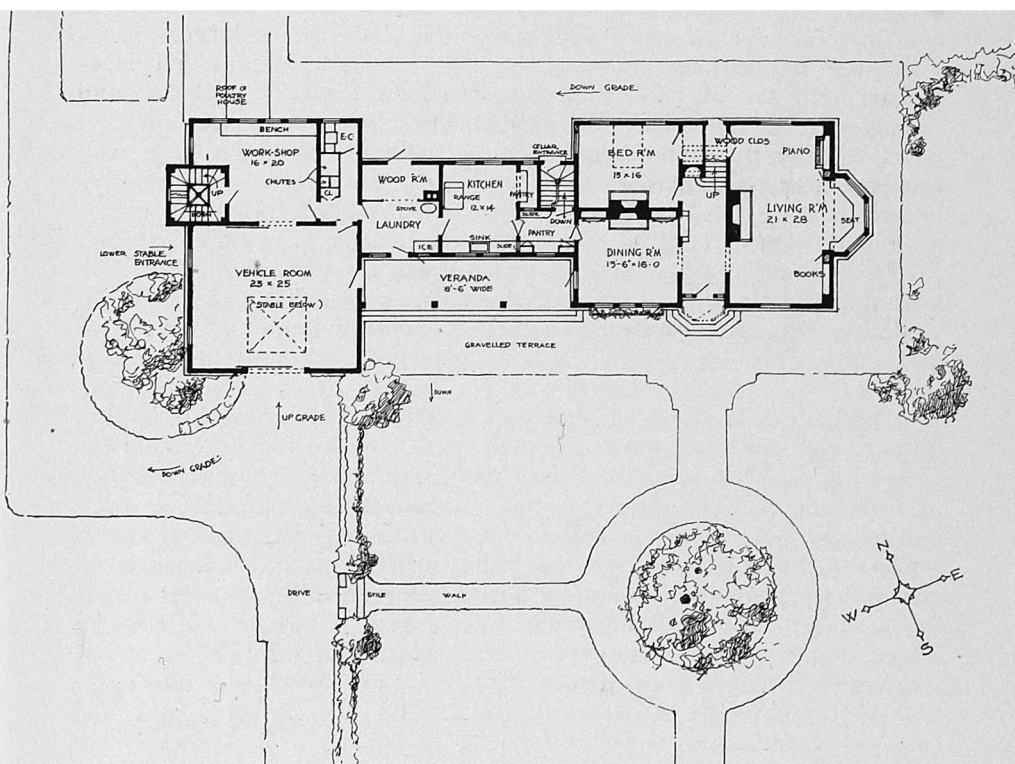
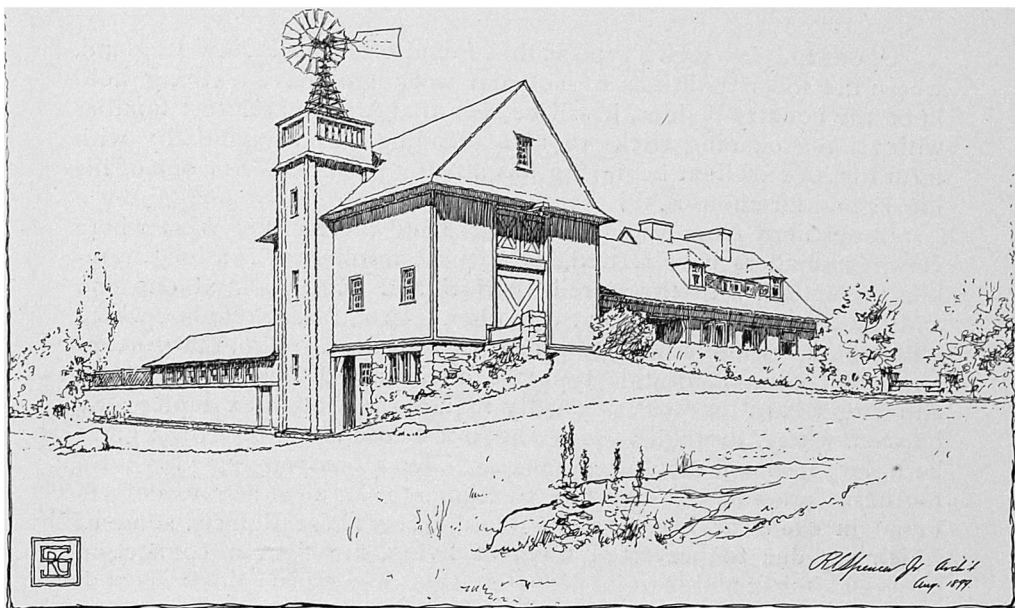
HOWARD SHAW, ARCHITECT

THE FARMHOUSE PROBLEM

For an architect there is no better way of spending the summer holiday than a-wheel in a prosperous farming country, seeking interesting examples of a domestic architecture in the rough. He must expect little and be content to find his pleasure chiefly in the enjoyment of woods and fields, for the average farmstead adds but a doubtful charm to the landscape. Often, indeed, a near view will show a habitation so brutally bald, ugly, forbidding, and neglected, in the midst of such dismally and repellent surroundings that it may be said of our own benighted heathen, still deaf to the gospel of beauty, that they live in a land "where every prospect pleases, and only man is vile."

Amid the freshness and beauty of the fair open country one cheerless or unsightly house seems, by contrast, more discreditable to a highly civilized and progressive race than a whole row of them in the city. But when in some rise or turn of road a picturesque and homelike farmstead greets the eye, a grateful picture sinks into the beholder's memory, not soon to be effaced. Unspoiled by the crude latter-day vagaries of the village carpenter or the blighting influence of the ready-made plan of commerce, house, barns, windmills, and outbuildings are sometimes found happily placed as to site, and built in seemingly haphazard yet sturdy and purposeful fashion, with wings, perhaps, and other supplementary structures of later build for growing needs. Enhancing the charm of such a home, one is likely to find a broad sweep of green between the house and road, well-kept hedges separating lawn from orchard, orchard from field, and garden from both, and tall trees, the last of a race of forest giants, towering above roofs and chimneys, while flowering vines reach to eaves and droop again in waving streamers.





Upon studying such a type as this, found oftenest in New England, where the sober traditions of colonial work still have a strong hold upon the country builder, it will be seen that for the architect familiar with all the cunning tricks of nice planning and in sympathy with farm life an excellent beginning has already been made for one of his ideal good farmhouses.

In northern New England, and here and there in the West where New Englanders have settled, the typical farmhouse is a long, rambling structure, with the sacred "parlor" and guest-room at one end and the barn and workshop at the other. In northern regions, where old-fashioned winters with deep drifting snows still reign, the convenience and comfort of this type are obvious. Of course, a separate and larger barn for stock is usually required, although examples may be seen, where, through various sheds, a house is united with a great barn, large enough for all purposes. The accompanying plan for a northern farmhouse is designed to eliminate the most serious defects found in even the best of these buildings. These defects, some of which are due to perverted ways of living, are first, a connection between kitchen and barn inadequately shut off against odors; second, incomplete or inconvenient laundry, fuel, pantry, and other working arrangements; third, lack of bathroom and sanitary conveniences; fourth, and perhaps most serious of all, lack of a large, sunny, attractive living-room in place of the frigid, old-fashioned state parlor, held sacred to memorable occasions, such as weddings and funerals. One needed feature, seldom provided, is a roomy entry set apart for the male members of the household, in which they may remove dirty boots and overalls and clean themselves up properly before entering the kitchen or living-rooms. Often toilet and wardrobe conveniences may be provided in the laundry.

In planning and placing a house in a sharply rolling country, such advantage of the site may usually be taken to provide easy and convenient access to house and barn on two levels, giving an added charm and picturesqueness to its various aspects seldom found in the level prairie.

The little field-stone farmhouse is another architect's ideal, having no existing prototype, but suggested by the desire to show the neglected but delightful possibilities of native materials, even in the hands of rude workmen, as applied to an arrangement for simple yet good and seemly living, with special provision for the enjoyment of *al fresco* repasts in the summer upon the vine-roofed terrace which juts out into a sharp slope overlooking a fair and fertile valley. Such homes as these are not beyond the means of many a farmer. It is to be hoped that a quickened desire for better housing and more beautiful surroundings will in good time bring the farmhouse builder into sympathetic touch with the true architect, who can and will give the smallest problem his largest thought to benefit his fellow-men, if not for gain.

ROBERT C. SPENCER, JR.